of India (TRAI) are appointed in terms of the provisions of the TRAI Act, 1997, which empowers the Central Government to make such appointments. As per the provisions of the Act, TRAI consists of a Chairperson, and not more than two whole-time members and not more than two part-time members.

(c) Amounts released to TRAI by the Government in the last three years is as following :—

Year	Amount Released (Rs. in lakhs)
2000-01	890
2001-02	1070
2002-03	880

(d) After the amendments made to the TRAI Act in January 2000, the adjudicatory function of TRAI was shifted to the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal constituted under the amendments. Accordingly, no case has been adjudicated upon by TRAI during the last three years.

Disinvestment of MTNL

4969. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to disinvest the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited;

(b) if so, the details in this regard along with MTNL's current assets and liabilities and the anticipated earning from the proposed disinvestment;

(c) the factors leading to the proposal to disinvest MTNL and whether the proposal is aimed to benefit the private players;

(d) whether the possible buyers of MTNL have been identified;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether disinvestment of MTNL would follow merger of BSNL with MTNL or the two PSUs divested separately; and

(g) the details of the current assets and liabilities of BSNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No decision has been taken in respect of disinvestment of Government held equity in MTNL.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) No decision has been taken on this issue.

(g) As per the unaudited figures available up to 28-02-2003, the total current assests of BSNL are Rs. 176,913.4 Million and the total current liabilities are Rs. 186,627.7 Million. The Details are as under :—

28th Feb 2003 Unaudited (Rs. In 000's)

Current Assets	
Inventories	40,365,907
Sundry debtors	33,011,598
Cash and Bank Balances	49,856,836
Loans and Advances	53,679,064
Total Current Assets	**176,913,405**
Current Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	142,773,226
Provisions	43,854,482
Total Current Liabilities	**186,627,708**

BSNL's base stations in Hyderabad

4970. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the BSNL propose to increase its base stations in Hyderabad;

(b) if so by when the expansion would be completed; and

(c) what are the advantages of such an expansion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No Sir, Ninety-eight base stations (BTS) are sufficient to meet the planned coverage and the capacity requirement of 1.0 lac lines of Hyderabad city.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) The advantage of expansion is to meet sufficiently the capacity and coverage requirements of the area.